

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-11, as amended, remain herein. Claims 1 and 10 have been amended to recite the allowable subject matter of Claim 2. Claim 2 is cancelled. Applicant notes and appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2-9.

1. Claims 1 and 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Komi et al. U.S. Patent 6,477,185. Having amended claims 1 and 10 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 2, the rejection of Claims 1 and 10-12 is moot.

Accordingly, the application is now fully in condition for allowance and a notice of allowance of all claims 1 and 3-12 is respectfully solicited. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge/credit any fee deficiencies or overpayments to Deposit Account No. 19-4293 (Order No. 28951.1126). If the Examiner believes that still further amendments would place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is invited to call applicant's undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

2. Applicants also respectfully report acknowledgment in the written record of the Claim for Priority and certified copy of applicant's prior priority application, both filed herein on November 13, 2001.

Respectfully submitted,

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